

Tavoy; and in the Appendix (*t. c.* p. 501) they add—"the jungles at the foot of Nwalabo, and the country between this and Tavoy." Capt. Bingham (*Str. Feath.* 1880, p. 161) observes—"though not common, it still occurs here and there in the evergreen forests of the Thoungyeen." Siam has been given as a habitat by Blyth; and in the British Museum there is a specimen (formerly in the Gould collection) from that locality, procured by Mouhot or Schomburgk. Colonel Tickell, in his *MS. Ill. Ind. Orn.*, describes and figures, as a male, a Tenasserim example; the red check-patch has, however, been omitted, showing that he had a female bird before him. Malherbe describes the present species as "less than *M. tristis*;" but his measurements show this to be a slip of the pen. I have examined specimens of *M. jugularis* in the collection of the British Museum, and also in that of Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay. The descriptions are taken from birds in my own museum.

XXI.—*Notes on Woodpeckers.*—No. VII. *Additional Notes on the Woodpeckers of the Ethiopian Region.* By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

THROUGH the kindness of Count Salvadori I have recently had an opportunity of examining some interesting Woodpeckers collected by the late Marquis Antinori in Schoa. Amongst them was an example of *Mesopicus spodocephalus*, a species which, at the time I wrote my paper on the African Woodpeckers, I had not had an opportunity of examining. It turns out to be a very distinct species, which I am glad to have the chance of describing, as it enables me to correct at the same time a very serious error which has crept into my key (*Ibis*, 1883, p. 406), for the detection of which I am also indebted to Count Salvadori. By a *lapsus calami* I have placed *M. goertan* and *M. spodocephalus* in the yellow-shafted section of the genus, instead of in the black-shafted section, and I therefore give an amended key to replace my former one.

Key to the Species.

- a.* Shafts of quills and of tail-feathers bright yellow or orange-brown above and below.
- a*¹. Sinciput black, spotted with white; hinder crown and occiput red; colour above and below olive-dusky, narrowly barred with white; sides of face white.
- a*². With a broad auricular stripe of black and a second broad moustachial band, the two *not* meeting on the side of the neck *namaquus*.
- b*³. Auricular band uniting with the moustachial band on the side of the neck *schoensis*.
- b.* Shafts of quills and of rectrices dark brown or black above, yellow or light brown below.
- b*¹. Forehead ashy grey; crown and occiput red; rump and upper tail-coverts red.
- c*². Centre of abdomen yellow, sometimes with a slight tinge of red *goertan*.
- d*². Entire abdomen conspicuously red, extending on to the breast *spodocephalus*.
- c*¹. Forehead, crown, and occiput, as well as the rump and upper tail-coverts, red.
- e*². Above and below uniform golden olive, without moustachial or auricular stripes; face and throat slaty grey; lower part of abdomen centred with red *griseocephalus*.
- f*². Above uniform golden olive; below dingy buffy white, striped and varied with black; a black moustache and auricular stripe; face and throat buffy white; a median stripe of red down the breast and the whole of the abdomen .. *pyrrhogaster*.
- d*¹. Forehead and crown dark umber-brown, the feathers of the former tipped with white and the latter with yellow; occiput bright yellow; rump yellowish olive *xantholophus*.

It appears that in following von Heuglin with regard to *M. spodocephalus*, I had taken for granted that he was acquainted with the species; this now turns out not to have been the case, von Heuglin's so-called *M. spodocephalus* being nothing more than what has been termed the red-bellied variety of *M. goertan*, which, in my opinion, is nothing but the adult bird of that species. I append a full description

of the true *M. spodocephalus*, taken from the specimen which Count Salvadori has been good enough to lend me, giving at the same time what I believe to be a detailed synonymy of the species, according to the views of Count Salvadori and myself.

MESOPICUS SPODOCEPHALUS.

Dendrobates poiocephalus, Rüpp. (non Sw.) Besch. neuer abyss. Klettervögel, in Mus. Senckenb., Extra-Band iii. p. 119 (1842); id. Syst. Uebers. p. 86, pl. xxxiv. (1845); Heugl. Syst. Uebers. p. 47. no. 485 (1856).

Dendrobates spodocephalus, Bp. Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 125 (1850).

Mesopicus spodocephalus, Bp. Consp. Volucr. Zygod. p. 9 (1854); Hartl. Orn. W.Afr. p. 180 (note) (1857).

Scolecotheres spodocephalus, Reichenb. Handb. Scans. Picinæ, p. 427, pl. dclxxvi. figs. 4471, 4472. (1854) (ex Rüpp.).

Dendropicus spodocephalus (pt.), Gray, List Pici. Brit. Mus. p. 68 (1868); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 190. n. 8660 (1870).

Adult female. Back and scapulars uniform golden olive, the feathers having brighter golden margins; wing-coverts browner than the back and more or less margined with golden olive; quills brown, the outer webs of the inner primaries margined with golden olive, those of the secondaries partially or entirely olive-brown, similarly margined; a few minute and almost obsolete yellowish spots on the outer webs of some of the primaries; the inner webs of the primaries at their base, and those of the secondaries along their whole length, spotted with white; the innermost secondaries washed with olive on the inner webs, shafts dark brown; rump and upper tail-coverts scarlet; tail brown, the lateral feathers with a few indistinct spots of yellowish brown, shafts dark brown; nasal plumes, entire head and neck, also the under surface of the body, bluish grey, the breast having a slight tinge of olive; the abdomen scarlet-vermilion; under tail-coverts uniform, and rather browner than the under

surface of the body; under wing-coverts dull white, with a slight tinge of yellow, and having dusky barring. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 4·37, tail 2·3, tarsus 0·7; toes (without claws), outer anterior 0·56, outer posterior 0·62, inner anterior 0·45, inner posterior 0·3.

Considering that Bonaparte in all probability only knew this species from Rüppell's single type (a female, which is in the Frankfort Museum), I cannot see how he was able to describe the male as having the whole of the top of the head red, although this will doubtless prove to be the case.

XXII.—*On the Occurrence of Œstrelata hæsitata in Hungary.*

By W. EAGLE CLARKE, F.L.S.

WHEN going over the collection of Hungarian birds in the National Museum at Buda-Pesth in May last, I was very much surprised to observe a specimen of *Œ. hæsitata*. This, I was informed by Dr. Madarász, the Curator in ornithology, had been killed in or near the village of Zolinki, in the county of Zips, in North Hungary, in the year 1870, and found its way into a local collection of birds, but was acquired by the museum in exchange during the same year.

The occurrence of this ocean-loving species in the very heart of Europe is not a little remarkable; and when I informed Professor Newton of the existence of this specimen, he, with his accustomed caution, advised me to have the identification confirmed by Herr von Pelzeln, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of making when at Vienna. My friend Dr. Madarász kindly sent the bird to Vienna for examination; and Herr v. Pelzeln informed me shortly afterwards that it was "the bird figured by Temminck in the 'Planches Coloriées' (fig. 416), but in a younger dress."

This occurrence has not hitherto, I believe, been recorded; and unless, since the publication of Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' there are some additional occurrences of which I am unaware, it is the third European specimen.